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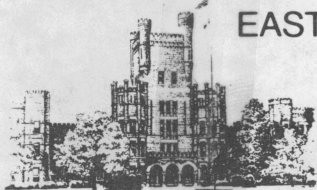
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EBINGER NOMINATED AS 'DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR'

CHARLESTON, IL.--Botany Professor John Ebinger has been selected as Eastern Illinois University's nominee for the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities first "Distinguished Professor Award."

The winner of the award, the most prestigious faculty honor in the five-university system, will be announced during the Board's regular meeting Thursday (June 21) in Springfield.

Professors from Western Illinois, Northeastern Illinois, Governors State and Chicago State have also been nominated.

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The first recipient will receive a \$5,000 stipend and a minimum of 50 percent reassigned time in order to make presentations on a selected topic at the five Board of Governors universities and public appearances on behalf of the Board.

Ebinger was nominated for his outstanding teaching ability, his stimulating research, and publishing and his concern for students.

Terry Weidner, chairman of Eastern's Botany Department said, "For years, Dr. Ebinger has been the Botany Department's most prolific researcher. To the best of my knowledge, he has published more research papers and has presented more invited seminars than any other faculty member at Eastern. At the same time, he has carried a very heavy teaching load.

"He likes to teach and his students are more than willing to attest to the fact that he is an excellent instructor. We are very proud to have John as a colleague and a friend."

A Charleston resident, Ebinger has been on the Eastern staff since 1963 and has been visiting professor and adjunct professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1985. He earned a bachelor's degree in Botany from Miami University of Ohio and master's and doctorate degrees in Botany from Yale University.

The author of more than 80 scientific papers, he has done extensive research on the vegetation in Illinois, which has been of value in helping to determine what plants and what environments to save, or in helping ecologists restore those natural areas that have already been degraded or destroyed.

Ebinger is curator (custodian) and chief developer of the Stover Herbarium at Eastern. This collection of over 50,000 plant specimens, most of which have been contributed by him and his students, serves plant taxonomists worldwide.

He has developed and/or taught a number of unique courses at EIU and at its extension centers. Included are the interdisciplinary "Ascent of Man" course, a very popular Senior Seminar, "Plants and Civilization," and other graduate and undergraduate courses in Botany. He has also directed more than 30 masters' theses during his career at Eastern.

The EIU professor is a consultant to the Illinois Natural Area Inventory, Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, Illinois Department of Transportation (regarding endangered species) and Illinois Department of Conservation.